



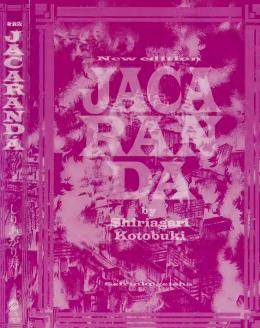


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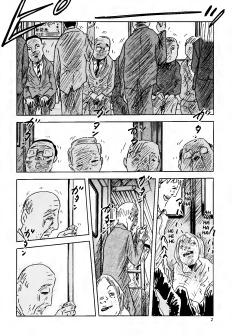














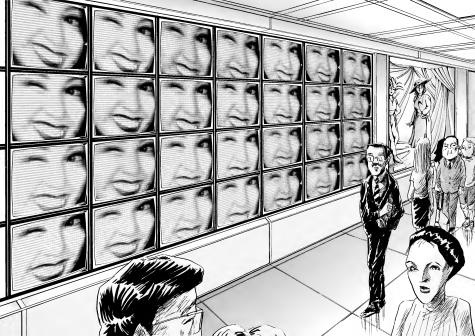






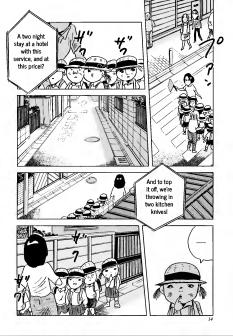






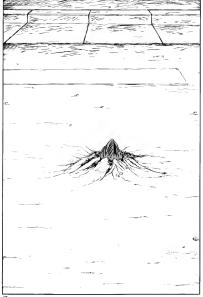
























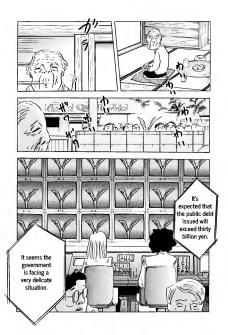










































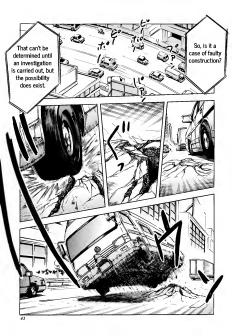












































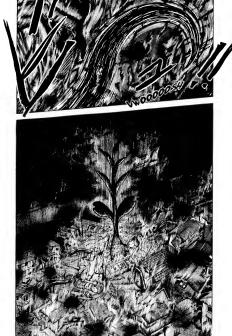


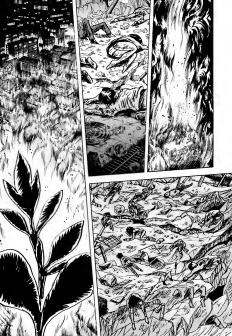










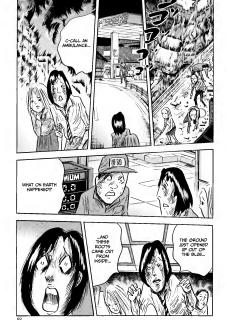


















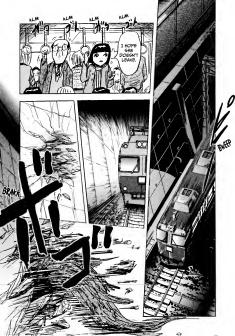










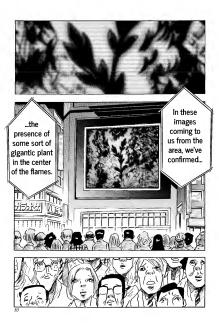








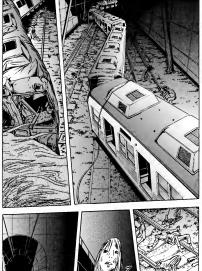




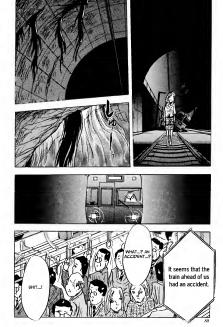


















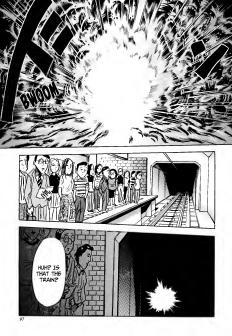










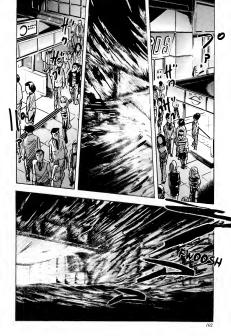


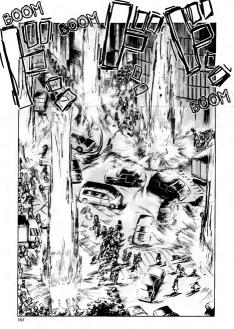






















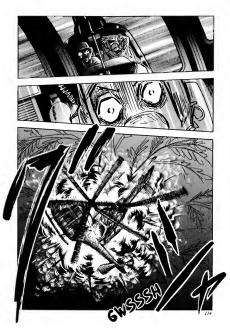






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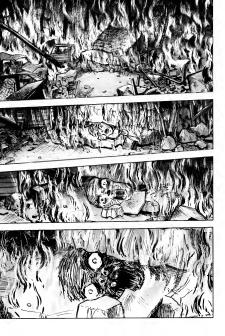


































Let's go live to Shibuya.















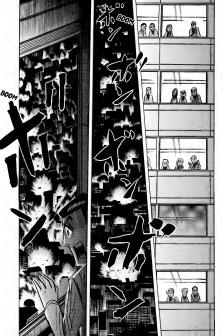


















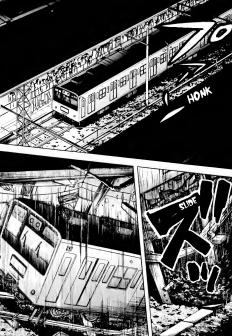






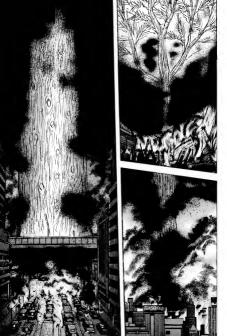


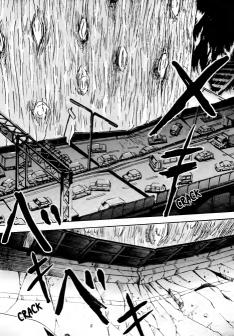


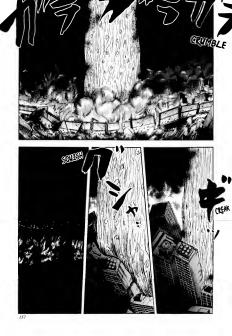




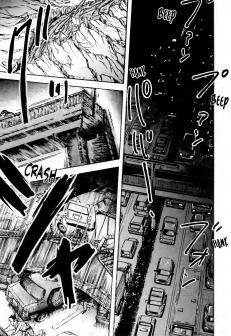




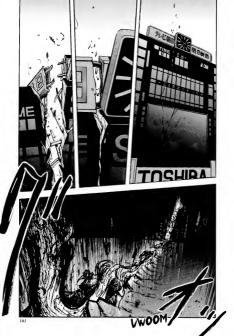






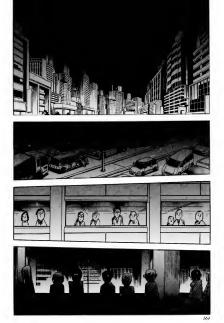


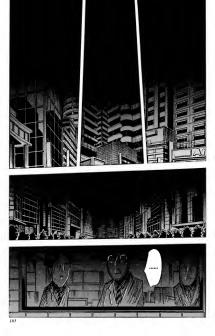




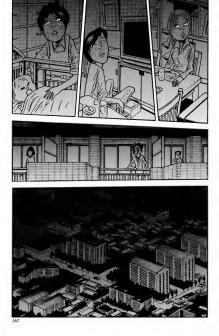




















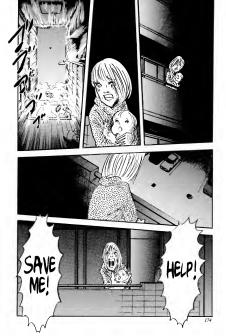




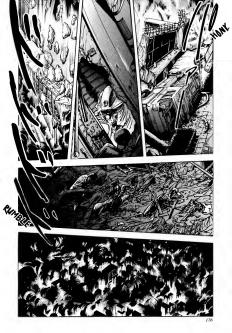


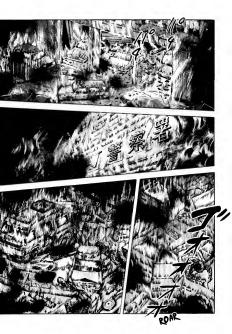


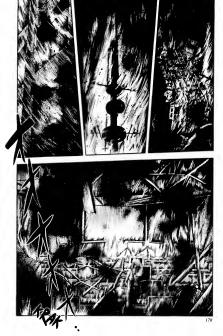
















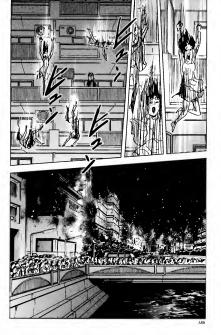




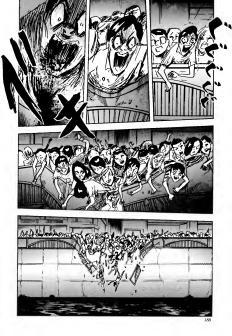






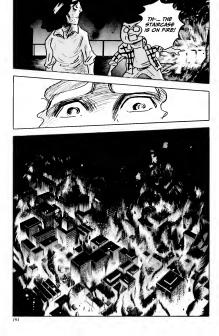














































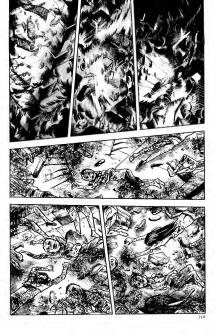


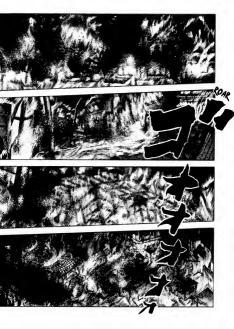




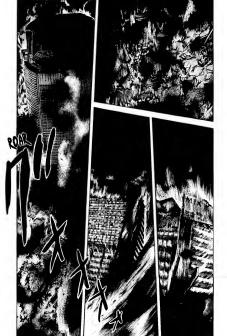










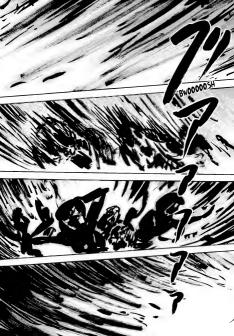






















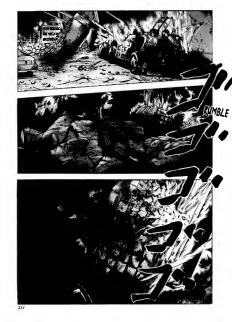
















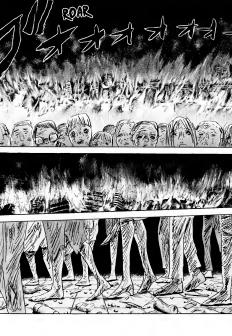






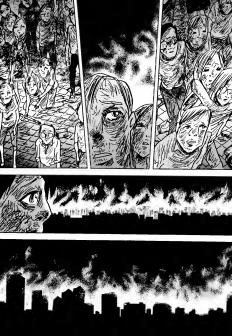




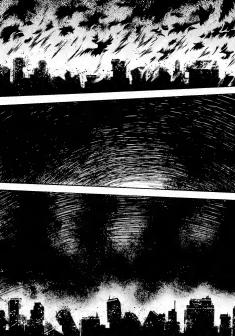








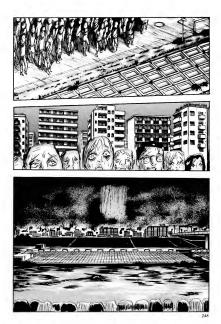




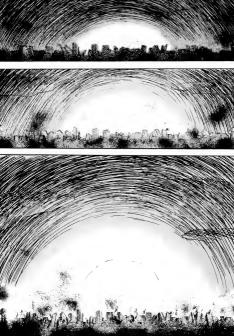




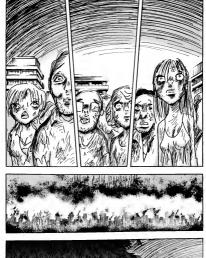










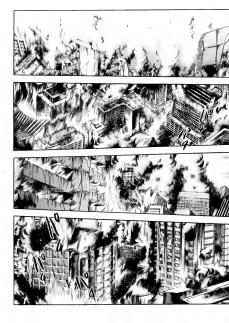


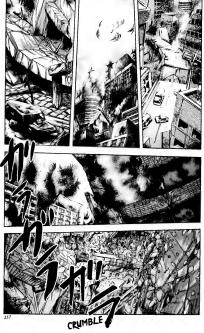


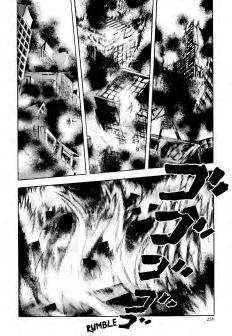






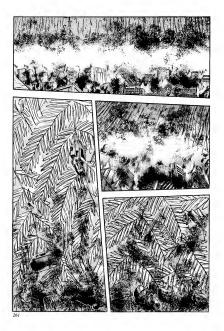


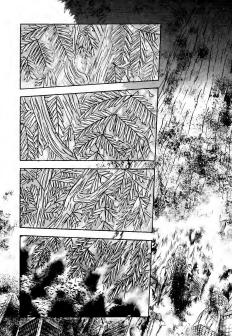


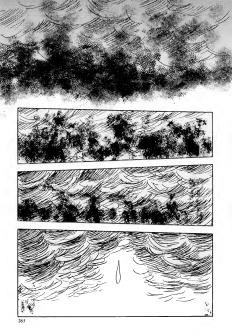


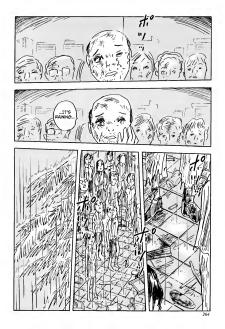




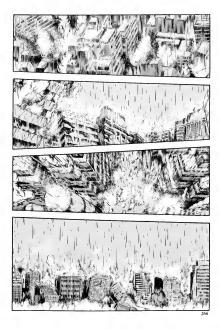


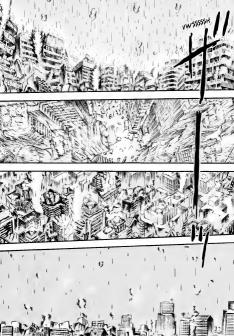


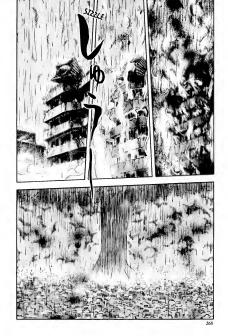






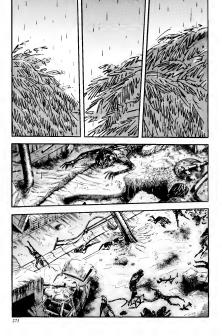


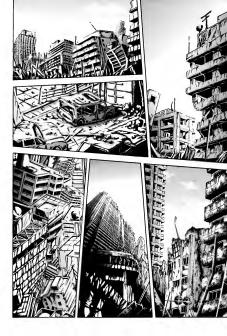












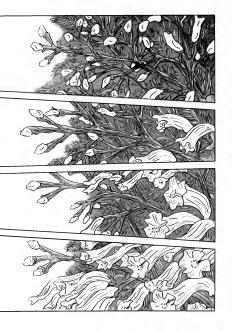


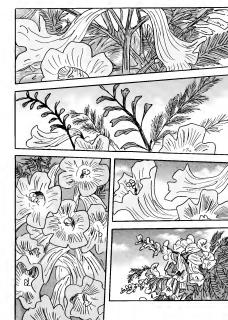


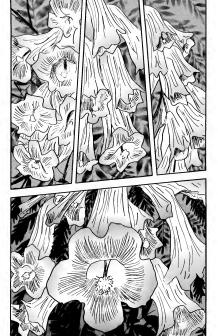


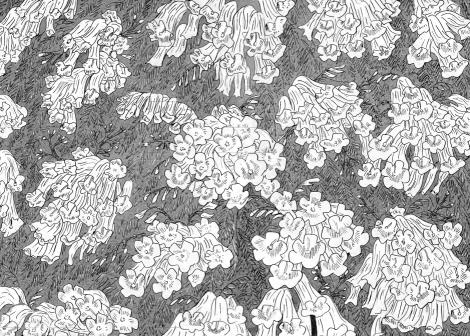




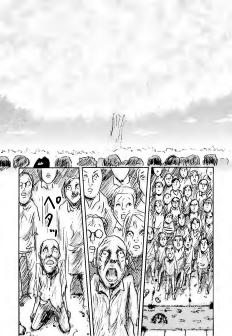








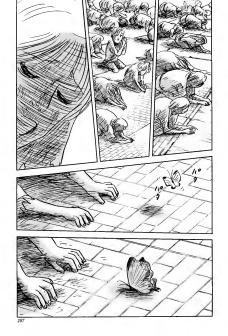


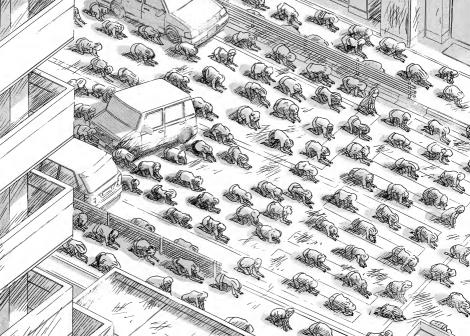


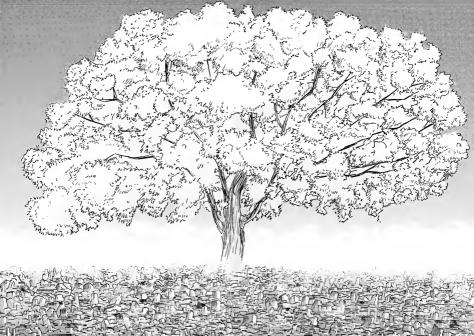




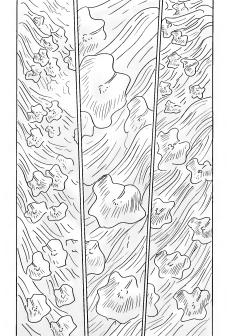










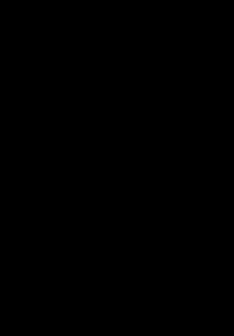












There might be some who think they see in this story those who long for the coming of dictatorships or authoritarian regimes, or that they can find here terror in the face of the inevitable arrival of serious natural disasters, with earthquakes as the most immediate example. Perhaps what some will see is that aspiration found within the whole human race of getting the chance to turn into a hero and become venerated after a catastrophe, as takes place with the jacarandal.

I don't know which is the right interpretation. The most important thing for me was the image in my mind of the devastation of Tokyo caused by a gigantic tree in just one night, a vision so intense that it led me to draw a three hundred page manga. The result is the sheer portrait of a situation, without using any kind of narrative device nor telling any human drama. One could say I've stretched a single 4-koma strip across three hundred pages.

If I had enough ability and technique, I would have liked for this manga to be as a joke, which united carefree laughter with war war the most cataclysmic destruction.

Finally, I'd like to take the time here to exonerate the protagonist of Jacarandá.

The real jacarandá is a pretty tree with pink flowers native to South America, incapable of any evil.

Forgive me, jacarandá.

May 27th, 2005 Kotobuki Shiriagari At the end of the twentieth century, I drew a manga titled "Hakobune" ("The Arc"). It's a tale about a silent end, in which the world is completely submerged under crystalline water. A story about the death of that concept we could dub innovation, or creative capacity.

One possibility that might enable the human being to be reborn and stay afloat on that fountain of death would be, I thought, the animal survival instinct. Letting himself be swept along by the irresistable primary impulses: the senses before reason, violence above dialogue, destruction rather than creativity. Hope and fear to succumb to an overwhelming power.

To me, this would take shape as a gigantic jacarandá arrived from the tropics, which would bring with it the Apocalypse in a single night.

So in contrast with Hakobune, this isn't a story of annihilation, but of rebirth. A rebirth by way of the downfall of Humanity and Civilization, a grim final solution accompanied by a colossal sacrifice, a grievous beginning, a future to be avoided at all costs.

Even though there will also be those who wonder if there's no longer hope that the world may be saved before the jacarandá springs forth. 「初出」 「アックス」

Vol.,29(2002年10月30日発表号)~Vol.,42(2004年12月31日発表号) 単編月刊興報月末発売

※連載全14法・224頁に指き下ろし78頁を加えた。
※本書は2005年6月25日小社より刊行したものを削減額として発行した。



[無付] 新 装 版 ジャカランダ

2011年11月11日 初版第一副発行

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special thanks/北林朝彦

編集発行人 手塚能理子 発行所 株式会社青林工藝舎

〒162-0054東京都新省区河田町3-15 河田町ビル3階 電話:03-3352-0471(営業部) 03-5363-5920(編集部) FAX:03-5363-5919(共建) http://www.seirinkogeisha.com/

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